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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-fourth session
Agenda item 4

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH
WHICH THE SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN CONCERNED

Draft resolution submitted by Mr. Eide, Ms. Forero Ucros, Mr. Guissé, Mr. Hatano, Mr. Khalil, Ms. Ksentini, Mr. Maxim and Ms. Palley

1992/... International register of information on arms

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Reaffirming that the primary function of the United Nations is to promote international peace and security,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Deeply concerned at the large and increasing number of armed conflicts both within and between Member States of the United Nations,

Conscious of the fact that instability and armed conflict seriously undermine respect for and the full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

Welcoming various efforts towards the peaceful settlement of disputes under United Nations auspices,

Alarmed by reliable reports of ongoing and flagrant violations of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 by States parties engaged in armed conflict,

Recalling the working paper on the interrelationship between human rights and peace prepared by Mr. M. Bhandare (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/32 and Corr.1),

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, in which the Assembly, promoting the concept of transparency and recognizing that international arms transfers and production and the illicit arms trade lead to the violation of human rights, urged Member States to monitor and control arms transfers effectively in order to eradicate the illict arms trade,

Welcoming also the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, in which it requested the Secretary-General to establish a universal and non-discriminatory Register of Conventional Arms, to include data on international arms transfers as well as information provided by Member States on military holdings, procurement through national production and certain categories of equipment, subject to the expansion of the scope of the Register by the addition of further categories of equipment and inclusion of data on military holdings and procurement through national production,

Taking note of the fact that, pursuant to its resolution 46/36 L, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a panel of governmental technical experts, to elaborate the technical procedures and to make any adjustments to the annex to the present resolution necessary for the effective operation of the Register, and to prepare a report on the modalities for early expansion of the scope of the Register by the addition of further categories of equipment and inclusion of data on military holdings and procurement through national production, and to report to it at its forty-seventh session,

Bearing in mind that the reduction of world military expenditures would have a significant positive impact on the social and economic development of all peoples,

1. Appeals to all States Members of the United Nations to give every assistance to the Secretary-General in maintaining the Register of Conventional Arms, as set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/36 L of 9 December 1991;

2. Also appeals to Member States to take into account the potentially negative impact of arms exports upon the enjoyment and full realization of human rights;

3. Urges States to incorporate human rights criteria into any and all international transactions involving the sale or provision of arms or other military materials to other States or groups involved in armed conflict and, inter alia, to require such arms and materials to be used for self-defence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, or for the maintenance of law and order in a democratic society;

4. Recommends that the Commission on Human Rights request the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to consider inviting Member States to approve as soon as possible the elaboration and expansion of the Register of Conventional Arms to cover national production, and in particular to extend the Register to cover small arms and unconventional weapons.